CLATSOP COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History Matters

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January/February 2025

Casino Night

Join us as our Heritage Museum becomes a speakeasy for Casino Night. There will be plenty of gambling and drinks in this juice joint, plus a costume contest, so get all dolled up in your best glad rags. It will be the cat's pajamas ...but you didn't hear it from me.

Members of the Jarvinen family and friends display their best 1920 clothes at an afternoon at Shively Park (above left) and at Cannon Beach (above right). The Jarvinens built and ran what is now the Portway Tavern (422 W. Marine Drive) for over sixty years. Opened during Prohibition, the one-hundred-year-old establishment originally operated as a café. It officially became a tavern once the national ban on alcohol sales was lifted.

Curator's Corner

by Dr. Chelsea K. Vaughn, Curator

One of my favorite ways to get a better sense of what life was like historically in Clatsop County is to go through our extensive photo album collection. While our collection of over 40,000 loose photos is an amazing resource as well, I find that it is in the pages of our photo albums where people stashed their most candid and personal shots.

Here, people appear in the clothes they preferred to wear every day, spending time with their family and friends, unafraid to look silly before the camera. As cameras had become relatively commonplace by the 1920s, we have numerous albums from this period. These photos offer a great selection of images to peruse ahead of our 1920's speakeasy-themed Casino Night. A few of my favorites are included here.

(top) Neighbors Alice Rouwens and Jean Hagerup pose before the Rouwens' Grocery Store on the corner of 37th and Leif Eriksen Drive (now the Astoria Coffee Company). Alice (middle) and her mom Marie Rouwens (bottom) separately model their best 1920s fashions next to the family's Studebaker, circa 1925.

Musings

What an incredible year 2024 turned out to be!

We enjoyed record attendance at the Flavel House, Heritage Museum, and the Oregon Film Museum. The Clatsop County Historical Society welcomed almost 100,000 visitors to our museums and events! We would not be able to educate and entertain even a fraction of that number without the support of so many.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any non-profit but it is especially true for CCHS. Dozens of dedicated docents work in the Flavel House, still others in the Liisa Penner Research Center & Archives. The Flavel House Garden Society has dramatically transformed the grounds. Our volunteers speak at Thursday Night Talks, serve guests at Mother's Day Tea and during Plum Pudding, play historic characters for Talking Tombstones, take tickets at Casino Night, become kids again for Old Fashioned Fun & Games, and greet thousands of visitors at Goonies Day. That is an ambitious calendar of events for an historical society representing a rural county of 40,000 people.

Let's not forget, the CCHS Board of Directors are also volunteers. Their steady guidance, enthusiasm, and willingness to be ambassadors for CCHS have been critical to our continued growth and success in recent years.

The staff of CCHS is second to none. They welcome visitors from all over the globe, help researchers, plan events, create first-class exhibits, publish books and magazines, give lectures, lovingly care for our historic buildings, and preserve and share more than 100,000 artifacts, documents, and photographs. All of this is done with an annual budget of about a million dollars—far less than many single museums of our size spend, and we operate four!

So many exciting achievements happened in 2024. I would like to share a few of the highlights.

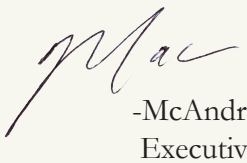
Painters Scott Stills and Simo Ranta did a beautiful job painting the south side of the Flavel House and the entire Carriage House Visitor Center.

Our burgeoning partnership with the Friends of the Astoria Column has been a great benefit! We are sharing staff and resources while increasing programming at the Column, including this past summer's Glider Games and the memorable "Musical Stairs" concert performed inside the Column. The brainchild of CCHS friend Jeff Daly, the music and light show was enjoyed both at the Column and from afar thanks to local station KAST. Jeff's unique vision and boundless energy made the concert a reality.

We continued digitizing our collections through the Internet Archive. Thanks to the leadership, generosity, and gentle prodding of Tom & Annie Smith, we have made nearly 4,000 items available online. We are grateful for their continued support along with other donors who have joined them in these efforts.

The planned expansion of the Oregon Film Museum is ever-progressing. We have $7,000,000 in commitments towards our $10,100,000 new facility. The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust made a $500,000 grant last summer–but we must match half of it. This means we need to raise an additional $250,000 to receive the full grant, making your help not just important but necessary. A "public phase" of our capital campaign will be announced soon, but donations are always welcome.

Thinking about these accomplishments and our plans for the coming years, I am struck by what a collective effort this is. That includes you, loyal CCHS Member. Thank you! Whether you have an Individual Membership or a Patron level, your support is vital and has a huge impact. We rely overwhelmingly on the generosity of our friends in the community. I hope you take pride in your Membership and know what a difference it makes. I look forward to seeing you at our events or in one of the museums soon.



-McAndrew Burns,
Executive Director

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Digital Archive News

by Julie Burpee, Digital Archivist

We now have over 3,800 items available online! Check them out at the web address below or the QR code:

https://archive.org/details/clatsopcountyhistoricalsociety

It's a new year! The CCHS Internet Archive (IA) collection now has over 3800 items, and we're adding new things weekly!

Do you know how to see the newest additions to our IA account? Follow these steps:

1. Go to www.astoriamuseums.org. Click on the "Explore" tab, then "Collections" and "Internet Archive."
2. Near the top of our IA site you will see a bar labeled "Sort by" and a "Date Published" option.
3. Click on the "Date Published" drop-down menu and then "Items Added." This will show you the most recent items uploaded to our collection.
4. Have fun trying all the ways to organize the items. You could try by Title, Creator, or number of views, etc. Enjoy!

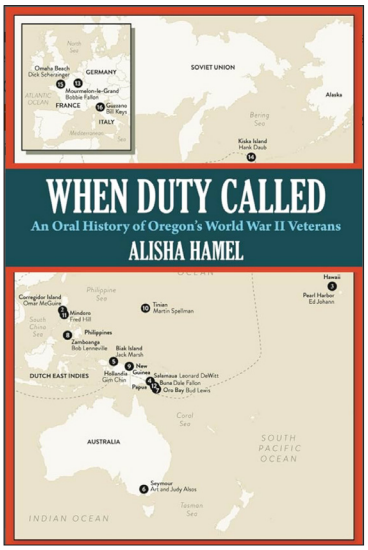
We here at the Clatsop County Historical Society Archive wish you the best of luck in your continued research, and we hope that you have a Happy 2025!

Recent additions to our digital collection include *Astoria to Seaside, Oregon* (top) produced by Woodfield's Art Store of Astoria, 1907, and *The Mixing Bowl* (bottom) produced by the Fern Social Club, 1938.

Thursday Night Talks

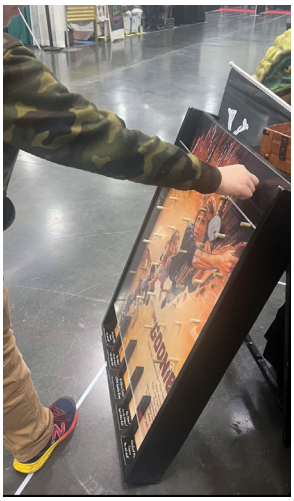
Join us February 20th, as Military Historian Alisha Hamel presents material from her recently released book *When Duty Called: An Oral History of Oregon's World War II Veterans*. Offering first-hand accounts and individual stories that range from Pearl Harbor to the Bataan Death March to D-Day to the last bombing raid over Japan by a Hollywood star, this evening promises a powerful look at this important chapter of US History and its local connections.

Doors open at 6. Talk begins at 7.



Fan Expo

Ahead of *The Goonies* 40th Anniversary Celebration, the Oregon Film Museum was invited to participate in this year's Fan Expo, held at the Oregon Convention Center. What a great opportunity to connect with fans of *The Goonies* and Oregon film in general!



OFM booth at Fan Expo (left) and a fan tries their luck at a Goonies-themed Plinko game (right).

The Goonies Turns 40!

Look for lots of fun Goonies-related activities in the coming year! In March, we're opening our new Heritage Museum special exhibit *Quiet on Set!* which takes a behind-the-scenes look at the filming of *The Goonies* in Astoria and Cannon Beach. Then, for Goonies Weekend (June 5-8), we're putting together a full schedule of Goonies-themed adventures including house tours, an 80s con, geochaching, photo ops, and more!

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Upcoming Events

February 15: *Casino Night*, Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange Street, 6-10pm.

February 20: *TNT* featuring Military Historian Alisha Hamel, Fort George Brewery Lovell Showroom, 1483 Duane Street, doors open at 6.

Ongoing Events

Sundays, 8:30-9pm: Mac Burns and Alana Kujala host *An Adventure in History* on KMUN.

Wednesdays at 1pm: Flavel House Garden Society, volunteers meet at the Flavel House Grounds.

Coming up…

Look for our newest exhibit, *Quiet on Set! The Filming of The Goonies in Astoria and Cannon Beach,* opening in March at the Heritage Museum.

Join us for Goonies Weekend, June 5-8. For more information visit: www.gooniesweekend.com

Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. Employees

Dolled up in their best glad rags for a night of celebration, 1927. Join us for our Casino Night, and do the same! February 15th, 6-10pm.